

March 5, 1959

Dear Norm:

Thanks very much for the material. Could I ask you to send me about 50 ~~25~~ more copies (or the stencil) at your convenience. This should be one of the appendices to the report of our proceedings, now being assembled, and I want to be sure of having enough complete sets to anticipate all possible needs later on.

One question we might want to consider is whether to publish our conclusions in any way. This might ~~xxxx~~ depend on what Cetex has to say.

I've been terribly undecided about whether to go to Cetex, and may not decide finally until the last minute (Sat. AM); probably not, since it seems quite unlikely that any Russians will be present, and the rest of Cetex doesn't need much convincing. I certainly agree with you about futility.

I should think an approach to Oparin would be desirable, quite independent of the conference. Even if he feels that the planets are sterile, surely he would want to keep them so precisely in order to verify his conceptions of the scope of probiotic syntheses! I would suggest that you write Oparin privately outlining your own concerns, and perhaps indicating how widely they ~~xxxx~~ are shared.

Odisnow told me that Alexander had spent months trying to arrange that the Cetex meeting be held in Moscow, without success. It's too bad the issue didn't arise on time for the origin of life symposium there! Oparin will be at Pavia, or at least he is scheduled, ~~xxx~~ and this might be another contact. I am enclosing some of my own correspondence with him--~~as~~ as you see it didn't get very far.

I will certainly come down for ~~the~~ colloquium, probably by train arriving early AM the Thursday. Can you arrange some hotel facilities for me, Thursday and Friday nights? The Atheneum or the like would be fine. I will call you in a couple of days about other attendants-- maybe Calvin and Stanier.

I am trying to get the forms from Darbyshire to claim expenses.

The session was much more encouraging and fun to work on a than I would have anticipated. But getting together the proceedings in a frantic rush for Cetex (and punctuated by the trunk line to Washington) has been rather wearing. It probably would have been more relaxing to go to Cetex and transmit all this by word of mouth!

Yours,

Joshua Lederberg